

Appln. No. 09/786,305
Amndt. dated April 18, 2005
Reply to Final Office Action of Dec. 17, 2004

Amendments to the Drawings

The attached sheets of drawings reflect the removal of duplicate FIGURE 15 on original sheet 12 and a correction to FIG. 26 to make the illustration of tear seam 316 consistent with the tear seam illustrated in FIG. 28 . FIGS. 16-35, attached as sheets 12 -22, now reflect corrected numbering for the drawing sheets. FIGS. 26 and 29 have been corrected to reflect the changes entered June 7, 2004 as requested by the Examiner.

Attachments – Replacement Sheets 12-22

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Remarks/Arguments

Reexamination and reconsideration are requested. In addition, a Petition for a one month extension of time to respond to the Office Action of December 17, 2004 accompanies this amendment.

Claims 1, 22-39 and 42-47 were pending in the application. Claims 1 and 22-39 have been allowed. Claims 43-47 have now been cancelled.

In the Office Action mailed December 17, 2004, the Examiner objected to the drawings as the illustration of tear seam 316 in FIG. 26 was felt to be inaccurate and/or incomplete. FIG. 28 is a magnified view of the region of in FIG. 26 bounded by circle A. The Examiner felt that the two illustrations of tear seam 316 were inconsistent. FIG. 26 has been corrected to overcome this objection.

It was indicated by the Examiner that claim 42 would be allowable if a terminal disclaimer was timely filed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). Claim 42 was rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 18 and 38 of USP 5,941,558 in view of USP 4,893,833 as well as over claim 19 of USP 6,203,056. A terminal disclaimer accompanies this amendment, along with the required fee, and it is believed that the outstanding double-patenting rejection has been rendered moot.

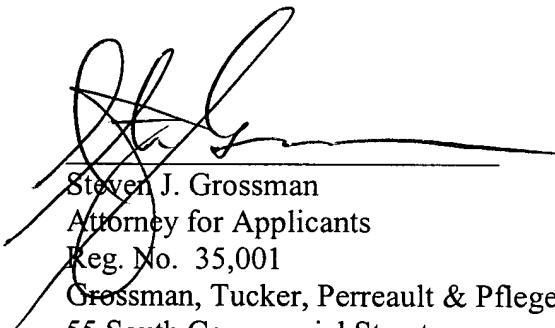
In consideration of the timely filing of the terminal disclaimer, the amendment to the drawing and the remarks hereinabove, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims currently pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited.

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In the event the Examiner deems personal contact is necessary, please contact the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop After Final, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 18, 2005, at Manchester, New Hampshire.

By Carol McClelland
Carol McClelland